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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Director, Foreign Broadcast
Information Service

EXTENSION

NO.

FBIS-0212/85

25X1

DATE

14 May 1985

25X1

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and
building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALSCOMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom
to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)1. Deputy Director for
Science and Technology
Room 6E45, Headquarters

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Evan:

We were asked to attend this meeting. [redacted] s attache25X1 lognote may be of some interest. Re the attachment, the "program development" item about "developing an alert mechanism for detecting new Soviet propaganda campaigns" relates to the recent letter from [redacted] cop25X1 of which I sent you.

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27. LOGNOTE - Analysis Group, 10 May 1985

(TBLitwin) USIA-CHAired COMMITTEE. I attended today the first meeting of a Subcommittee on Current Soviet Propaganda Techniques under the NSC's International Information Committee chaired by Charles Wick. The Subcommittee is to be chaired by USIA Associate Director for Programs Sam Courtney, who indicated that the new group will probably meet "every few weeks" to exchange information on work in progress in various components of USIA, State, and CIA and to keep abreast of work of the Soviet Active Measures Working Group chaired by State. The large attendance at the first meeting included [redacted], State and Agency analysts, and a big contingent from USIA. Brief presentations were made by State INR analyst Morton Schwartz on a paper he has completed on the Soviets' use of Foreign Ministry press briefings; by FBIS/AG's [redacted] on a paper in progress examining the Soviet broadcast/TV/press agency apparatus; and by OGI's Jack Schick on a paper in progress on Soviet efforts to influence Third World media, including TASS subsidizing of news agencies in countries like Sierra Leone.

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Lucian Heichler of State reported that the active Measures Working Group is creating an automated data base on active measures. Jim McGregor of USIA ticked off a list of projects undertaken in USIA to elucidate the problem of "semantic corruption," including a videodisk on the East-West "battle of words" and an Orwellian glossary of terms given one meaning in the West and another by the Soviets (they have identified six terms and anticipate a long-range effort to build the list up to hundreds).

While the new subcommittee is itself intended as a coordinating and information-exchanging body, the plan is for it to have two subordinate working groups--tentatively, a Research Working Group chaired by State and a Program Development Working Group chaired by USIA. A preliminary outline of what they might do is attached. Courtney intends to discuss the question further with [redacted] to ensure that the goals of the NSC, which commissioned the subcommittee, are being met. He will then circulate minutes of the meeting to those in attendance along with a detailed plan for comment.

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Looks to me as through our role will be peripheral.

Two parochial spinoffs of this morning's meeting: (1) State will do what it can to reinforce to Embassy Moscow the general interest in getting tapes of the Soviet Foreign Ministry press briefings so that they can be translated and circulated by FBIS; and (2) people in Courtney's office who read the Trends, were unaware that FOUO articles from it are on the FBIS Wire on date of issue and will talk to their internal-distribution people about getting copies.

(cc: D/FBIS, C/Ops, C/LRB)

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THE IIC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CURRENT SOVIET PROPAGANDA TECHNIQUES

Background

The International Information Committee's mission is to develop programs and approaches which meet the public diplomacy needs of U.S. foreign policy. In the past, the IIC has focussed most of its attention on presenting and furthering U.S. policy objectives. There has been a continuing need to counter programs designed by the Soviet Union and its allies to undermine those objectives.

The USG foreign affairs community has become increasingly concerned about recent changes in Soviet public programs described in a study submitted to the IIC. The IIC has accordingly established a subcommittee to deal specifically with these programs and with Soviet propaganda and influence efforts generally.

Purpose

The IIC Subcommittee on Current Soviet Propaganda Techniques will guide research and analysis on Soviet efforts to manipulate foreign publics and develop public diplomacy responses to Soviet initiatives and campaigns. The subcommittee will coordinate with but not supplant the Interagency Active Measures Working Group, which retains its mandate as the principal USG body for developing programs to deal with Soviet active measures (including disinformation).

Structure

The Subcommittee on Current Soviet Propaganda Techniques is chaired by the USIA Associate Director for Programs. It will be comprised of two working groups.

The Research Working Group will be chaired by the State Department and is tasked with recommending research by IIC constituent agencies into current issues and perceptions of U.S. policy abroad on Soviet-American relations or on other issues which the Soviets have or may be able to exploit.

The Program Development Working Group will be chaired by USIA. It is tasked with developing responses to Soviet initiatives such as enhanced use of Western-style public diplomacy approaches as well as developing specific responses to Soviet attempts to exploit U.S. vulnerabilities.

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Initial Tasks

The Subcommittee on Current Soviet Propaganda Techniques will work closely with the NSC's Soviet Political Action Group and the Inter-agency Active Measures Working Group. The Subcommittee's initial tasks will include:

Research

- o Developing a program for assessing the impact of Soviet propaganda on selected issues.
- o Gathering information on Soviet influence programs including cultural and information activities of Soviet embassies, news agencies, and support groups.
- o Assessing the relative images of U.S. and Soviet society, policy, and prestige in various regions.
- o Investigating developments in Soviet public diplomacy approaches, programs, and techniques which serve as conduits for propaganda.

Program Development

- o Coordinating a program for dealing with semantic corruption of international discourse.
- o Developing an alert mechanism for detecting new Soviet propaganda campaigns.
- o Preparing an action plan for collecting and distributing publications and studies by various IIC agencies which deal with Soviet propaganda and influence programs.

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